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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Military Information from the Schweinitz Manoeuvre Area

EVALUATION [REDACTED]

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE PREPARED 17 October 1950

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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1. Troop movements through Wittstock increased on 22 September 1950. Fifteen armored reconnaissance cars, 6 sidecar motorcycles mounting machine guns and 30 trucks with numbers of the [REDACTED] and carrying soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets, passed through the town. Some trucks towed 76.2-mm AT guns. Other motor vehicles had [REDACTED] a large white circle painted on the rear. Convoys of motor vehicles [REDACTED] also observed moving through Wittstock. (1)

2. During the night of 24 September 1950 five trucks [REDACTED] were seen at the Neustadt/Dosse railroad station. They came from the direction of Kampehl and proceeded toward Zernitz. The trucks were followed in about 50 minutes by eleven T-34 tanks, on each of which four or five soldiers were squatting. (2)

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3. Twenty T-34 tanks and 15 other tanks, [REDACTED] were loaded in Gloewen on 27 September 1950. (2)

4. A train loaded with military trucks passed through the Neuruppin railroad station going toward Krennen about 6:15 a.m. on 28 September 1950. Another train carrying twenty-five T-34 tanks and seven armored personnel carriers passed through Neuruppin going in the same direction about 9 p.m. on the same day. A third train carrying 22 tanks was observed in Rossow about 10 p.m., heading toward Krennen. (2)

5. Civil rail traffic on the Pritzwalk-Wittstock line was suspended on 28 September 1950. [REDACTED] most of the troops in the Mirow-Dranse area were loaded on trains. The trains went toward Wittstock and continued toward Neuruppin-Krennen and Wittenberge. The empty trains had come from the Magdeburg-Rathenow area.

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6. [REDACTED] five to eight troop trains passed through the Wittenberge railroad station each night from 28 to 30 September 1950. Seventy percent of the trains headed toward Magdeburg, the others went toward Neustadt-Berlin. (2)

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7. On 1 October 1950 two trains carrying canvas-covered tanks were standing at the Wittenberge railroad station, headed toward Berlin. Seven empty trains of boxcars and flatcars were observed between Pritzwalk and Wittenberge on the same day, heading toward Wittstock. (2)

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8. On 2 October 1950 a train carrying 29 trucks [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] eight 76.2-mm guns and about 250 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, passed through the Wittenberge railroad station heading toward Berlin. Another train carrying eight 122-mm guns, prime movers and 12 trucks passed through Wittenberge toward Magdeburg at noon. [redacted] 25X1

9. On 3 October 1950 a train carrying 30 trucks, 2 jeeps, 1 sedan and 8 guns of 100 to 120 mm caliber passed through the Wittenberge railroad station and proceeded toward Magdeburg. [redacted] 25X1

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- [redacted] Comment. [redacted] 25X1
(1) [redacted]
(2) Motor vehicles of the 18th Mecz Div. It is possible that the trains observed at Neustadt/Dosse and Gloewen on the Wittstock-Neuruppin-Kremmen line and those proceeding from Wittenberge toward Magdeburg and Berlin may have also carried elements of the 18th Mecz Div. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] The seven empty trains going from Wittenberge toward Wittstock on 1 October 1950 indicate that more troops left the Wittstock area on and after 2 October 1950. [redacted] 25X1

- (3) [redacted]
(4) The present report is a confirmation of information [redacted] on 25X1 loading operations and rail movements in the Wittstock-Neuruppin area and in Rathenow. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] information is only a cross section of the total volume of rail movements. However, it can be assumed that all trains were bound for the Magdeburg-Wittenberg-Dessau area where large-scale fall maneuvers started about 1 October 1950. It has been established that elements of both the 18th Mecz Div and the 94th Gds Itz Rifle Div took part in those maneuvers, but it is not known whether elements of the 9th Gds Tank Div also took part in the exercise. It is believed that only combat elements of the mentioned divisions participated in the maneuvers, while non-essential components returned to their home stations if they had left at all. This assumption is strengthened by a report from Perleberg which stated that on 25 September 1950 the barracks were only partly occupied by units without heavy weapons. [redacted]

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It now seems certain that, during the period concerned, elements of the 18th Mecz Div and the 9th Gds Tank Div were in the Wittstock area while other components of the 9th Gds Tank Div practiced in the Zehdenick area.



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